Methods in Applied Anthropology
Anthropology 531
Fall, 2014

Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:45 pm

Trudi Andres
Office: AL-480

Anthropology Department: (619) 594-5527
E-mail: trudiandres@yahoo.com

SYLLABUS

Learning Outcomes

Since the beginnings of their discipline, anthropologists have been concerned with the policy implications of their findings, with using their knowledge and perspectives to improve conditions, and with advocating for peoples and causes. All these are components of applied anthropology. Today, applied anthropology is a major activity and an important career option for anthropologists, as well as a focus of the SDSU Anthropology Department.

This course is an introduction to applied anthropology, with an emphasis on methods used in the field. Our readings, lectures, and discussions will revolve around four dimensions of applied anthropology:

• forms of practice (such as needs assessment and evaluation)
• methods (such as focus groups and rapid assessment)
• domains of practice (such as medical anthropology and tourism)
• making a career in applied anthropology.

A major component of this course is gaining experience in the methods used in applying anthropology. We will be planning activities in applied anthropology as a group and everyone will have the opportunity to use methods for planning, evaluating or understanding the impacts of policies and programs. Methods in applied anthropology we will explore include ethnographic observation, key informant interviewing, focus groups, and rapid assessment.

This course fulfills a methods requirement for the Anthropology major and M. A. program.

By succeeding in this course, you will be able to:
• understand the various domains and arenas of applied anthropology
• distinguish among the kinds of practice applied anthropologists engage in
• evaluate literature describing programs and policies
• use several methods frequently employed in applied anthropology
• determine when particular methods are useful for a given project
• work cooperatively with others to define and accomplish specific goals
• evaluate the fit between different applied anthropology options and your career goals and aptitudes
• explore career options in applied anthropology

Class sessions will include lectures, group discussions, and exercises. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. If, for some valid reason, you are unable to attend a class, you must assume responsibility for getting notes from a classmate. A schedule of readings is posted on Blackboard. The readings are to be completed before class on the day indicated.

**Texts**

There are three texts for this course.
- Other readings will be available via Blackboard

The Ervin text will be available on Reserve in the library. The NAPA bulletin is available on-line through the library website.

**Course Requirements**

**Test and Final Exam**

The mid-term test will be on October 15. The final exam is on December 17 at 3:30-5:30 pm (http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/registrar/finalexams/14_fall.html). These tests will be based on the readings and classroom material. Test formats may include short-answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions. There may be take-home components to the tests and final. The final may include comparative questions about the material covered before the mid-term test. The mid-term test is worth 100 points. The final is worth 130 points.

Note the date of the final for Winter Break travel plans.
It is not possible to schedule make-up tests in a way that is fair to all students. Therefore, there will be no make-up tests except in cases of true medical emergencies with documentation from a physician.
Methods Exercises

In addition to the readings, our class will be engaging in activities in applying anthropology. We will use methods described in our text to gain information about real issues at SDSU. In addition to engaging in exercises in class, we will be working exercises designed to guide you through the process and fulfillment of conducting a researching project. This work will involve a time commitments outside of class. More information about this component of the course will be given in class. The Method Exercises are worth 200 points (40%) of your final grade.

Participation

Participation will be required for everyone. The best way to engage in the material is to discuss it, articulate your viewpoint, listen and consider other viewpoints, and ask questions of others.

- Participation in the course entails not only regular class attendance, but also active involvement in classroom activities, including written exercises and discussions.
- 20 Points of your Participation will be measured both by how often you take part in class activities and by the quality of your contributions to class discussions.
- 50 points (10%) of your Participation will be based on Reading Notes and Questions.
  - Every Wednesday, excluding Weeks 1, 8, and 16, you will be required to turn in a Reading Notes and Questions via Blackboard.
  - The reading notes will be due prior to class to qualify for credit.
  - Each week will be worth 5 points.
  - The three lowest scores will be dropped for a total of 50 points.
  - Notes are to be written in your own style.
  - There should be at least two questions at the end of each weeks’ notes.

Course Grade (for undergraduates)

The grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term test</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods Exercises</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grades for undergraduates will be calculated from points as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450-459</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440-449</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-439</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-409</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360-389</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350-359</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340-349</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315-339</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300-314</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Students

In addition to the above requirements, you will also submit a research paper on work in applied anthropology. More information about the assignment and your course grade will be given to you separately.

Students with Disabilities

Students who need accommodation for their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Cheating is the most serious offense in academia and it will not be tolerated. If students have any questions about cheating, they should consult SDSU’s official policy, which can be found at: www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr.

Studying with other students is encouraged, but all written work, including tests and papers, must be the work of the individual student. (Specific group projects are an exception.) Examples of cheating include unauthorized sharing of answers during an exam, use of unauthorized notes or study materials during an exam, altering an exam and resubmitting it for regarding, having another student take an exam for you or submit assignments in your name, and participating in unauthorized collaboration on coursework to be graded.

Blackboard

This course uses Blackboard, a web-based course aid that can be accessed from any terminal. Information and materials about the course will be posted on Blackboard, as well as announcements. Blackboard uses the same password as WebPortal.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURSE.